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26 April 1965

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

AGREEMENT FOR REORGANIZATION OF THE
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM

I. PREAMBLE

Set forth below are certain basic assumptions which determine the organization appropriate for the administration and direction of the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP).

A. The national character of this essential intelligence enterprise must be maintained through a joint endeavor on the part of DoD and CIA.

B. The potentialities of U.S. technology must be aggressively and imaginatively exploited to develop systems for the collection of intelligence which are fully responsive to intelligence needs and objectives. In the development of new systems maximum use must be made of the experience, resources, facilities and technical competence of appropriate components of the Defense Department and CIA.

C. Scheduling and targetting of satellite and manned aircraft reconnaissance missions over denied areas shall be the final responsibility of the DCI and the United States Intelligence Board (USIB).

D. A new organizational framework is required which, particularly in the field of satellite reconnaissance operations and systems development, will: (1) provide a clearly established delineation of the roles and responsibilities of components of the Government engaged in these activities, and (2) ensure effective coordination of these activities under centralized policy guidance and control.

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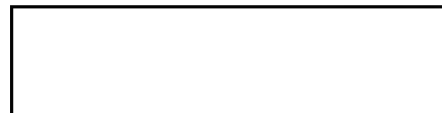


II. ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK:

A. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

An Executive Committee, consisting of the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence, will be established to formulate, guide, and regulate the NRP. Specifically the Executive Committee will:

1. Establish an appropriate level of effort for the NRP in response to reconnaissance requirements provided by USIB and in the light of technical capabilities and fiscal limitations.
2. Approve or modify the consolidated NR program and its budget.
3. Acting through the DNR, allocate responsibility and the corresponding funds to CIA and/or DOD for research and preliminary design studies for new systems.
4. Allocate development responsibilities and the corresponding funds for specific reconnaissance programs to DOD or CIA, and establish guidelines for mutual support where appropriate. It shall be free to use technical advisory groups as necessary.
5. Assign operational responsibilities to either DoD or CIA for various types of manned over-flight missions, subject to the concurrence, of the 303 Committee.
6. Review periodically the essential features of the major program elements of the NRP.



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B. ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE:

To insure the coordination of CIA and DOD reconnaissance activities a Director of National Reconnaissance Program will be appointed by the Secretary of Defense with the concurrence of the Director of Central Intelligence. The D/NR will serve for a four-year term and will be selected by the Secretary of Defense and concurred in by the Director of Central Intelligence from CIA, DOD, or from other sources. He will be responsible to and carry out the directives of the Executive Committee. He will devote his activities exclusively to the NRP and will have no other official duties. Specifically he will:

1. Provide a single point of integration for the planning and budgeting of the National Reconnaissance Program and will be responsible to the Executive Committee for the execution of the program.
2. Be kept fully and completely informed of all reconnaissance activities in CIA and DOD.
3. Schedule the use of the space launching, tracking and recovery facilities.
4. Review budget proposals submitted by appropriate elements of CIA and DOD and prepare and submit a consolidated budget for examination and approval by the Executive Committee.
5. Ensure the flow of funds from the NRP appropriations to CIA and appropriate DOD elements in lump sum transfers each fiscal year. Incremental funding from reserve or reprogramming sources will be used for supplemental programs approved by ExCom.
6. Deal with the operating head of the CIA or his designated alternate on all matters of policy, coordination, or guidance. He will not exercise command control over subordinate elements of CIA or its personnel, however, the DCI will insure that the fullest measure of cooperation is afforded the D/NR.
7. Sit with the USIB for the matters affecting the NRP.

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8. Appear before the 303 Committee to the extent desired by the DCI or the Deputy Secretary of Defense to secure approval for overhead reconnaissance missions.

C. MANNING OF THE REORGANIZED NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM:

To insure that the National Reconnaissance Program is truly a national entity, it will be manned in a balanced way by personnel from DOD and CIA. An appropriate plan to rotate DOD and CIA personnel into key positions of the NRP will be developed and approved by the ExCom. (Attached is chart showing key senior positions of NRP.)

III. OTHER ASPECTS OF THE NRP:

A. RESEARCH AND PRELIMINARY DESIGN:

1. Research on reconnaissance technology and preliminary design of new systems will be encouraged and supported in both CIA and DOD. It will be supported by a lump sum allocation from NRP budget line items to each group at a level to be recommended by the DRP and approved by the Executive Committee. It is intended that these funds and their products represent the flexible cutting edge of the NRP.

2. A prescribed amount of these resources will be allocated for support of basic research on reconnaissance technology to stimulate and assure the future vigor of this field. The DNR will be kept fully informed of all activities and developments in this connection for the purpose of ensuring appropriate coordination and preventing unwitting duplication as well as encouraging joint exploitation of new techniques.

3. Preliminary design and small technical feasibility demonstrations of new reconnaissance systems will also be funded from this innovation resource. Such work can grow out of requirements originating with USIB, the ExCom or the DNR for improvements in existing capabilities, or can result from spontaneous initiative in the CIA and DOD participating elements. However, it is important that the DNR and ExCom receive each month a comprehensive report on the initiation, status, or conclusion of such efforts. In this way, competitive study efforts will be recognized, approved or discouraged, and synchronized for later decision actions.

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B. SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT:

1. When a new reconnaissance system concept has been approved for development by ExCom, with appropriate recommendations by the D/NR, it will be assigned as a specific program of the NRP in whole or part to either CIA or DOD. This assignment will include the transfer of funds necessary for the development, production, and procurement envisioned, in whatever increments ExCom considers are appropriate to the proper management of the program.

2. The element of CIA and/or DOD assigned such development, production and procurement responsibility for a new system will be responsible for selecting and supervising contractors; for establishing such systems engineering support as they deem necessary; for rendering periodic reports on program progress to the D/NR and ExCom and generally for the implementation of the program.

C. SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE OPERATIONS:

1. When a satellite reconnaissance payload has been developed, it becomes a part of the operational assets of the NRP. Such payloads, together with appropriate rocket boosters, launch facilities, tracking/communication networks, and recovery forces must be combined in an orderly program to acquire intelligence information in response to USIB requirements. The conduct of this operational satellite reconnaissance program will be the responsibility of the D/NR.

2. The D/NR will establish a launching schedule for all satellite reconnaissance payloads in response to expressed USIB requirements. The D/NR will ensure that adequate launch vehicles and payloads are procured to meet this schedule and recommend budget levels in CIA and DOD



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to support this procurement. He will also support payload development flights with launch support and schedule such tests so as to be compatible with the basic operational schedule for acquisition of intelligence.

3. The DOD will create a single satellite reconnaissance operational organization which will be responsible for the launch, command and tracking and recovery phases of all satellite operations.

4. Satellite payloads for the program will be procured by the agencies responsible for their development and improvement. The components of these payloads will be accepted, assembled, tested, and programmed by the developing agency at suitable facilities near the launching site. These payloads will then be provided to the launching organization as certified equipment ready for flight on the schedule established by the D/NR.

5. The Satellite Requirements Program Center, formerly known as "Satellite Operations Center," shall be responsive to USIB requirements and will function as the responsibility of CIA. It has the responsibility of providing the operational mission intelligence guidance, i.e., final orbit choice, camera programming, etc.

D. MANNED OVERFLIGHT OPERATION:

1. Covert manned overflights of denied areas will be the responsibility of the Central Intelligence Agency. These missions will be planned in the Air Operations Center of CIA in response to USIB target coverage requirements with the approval of the 303 Committee. The D/NR will be kept fully informed of such planning and operations. Within the constraints established by the 303 group, these missions will be executed by CIA in the light of target and terminal weather, negotiations for overseas base use and defensive tactics necessary for operational survival. The DOD will continue to support such operations with airlifts, tankers, and base equipment in accordance with the basic U-2 and OXCART agreements.

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2. Overt manned overflights of denied territory or overt missions covering friendly territory will generally be executed by the DoD to meet established intelligence requirements unless otherwise directed by the 303 Committee. The Joint Reconnaissance Center of the JCS will plan the missions in response to USIB and/or field command target requirements. JRC will be responsible for executing such missions with the approval of the 303 Committee. The JRC will keep the D/NR fully informed on all such mission planning and execution. The CIA will support JRC in negotiations on overseas bases, providing secure communications, and security support as requested.

3. The designation of particular classes of manned overflight operations as overt or covert will be the responsibility of the ExCom in consultation with the 303 Committee, as noted above.

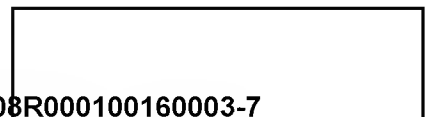
E. SECURITY:

The Director of Central Intelligence, in accordance with his statutory responsibilities for protection of intelligence sources and methods, shall be responsible for the overall security policy of the NRP. The D/NR will be responsible for the coordination of security matters within the respective elements of the NRP in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Executive Committee. Release of public information shall be coordinated with the DCI. The CIA shall maintain a central record of all security clearances related to the NRP.

F. BUDGETING:

A separate National Reconnaissance Program funding agreement will be entered into and made a part of this agreement.

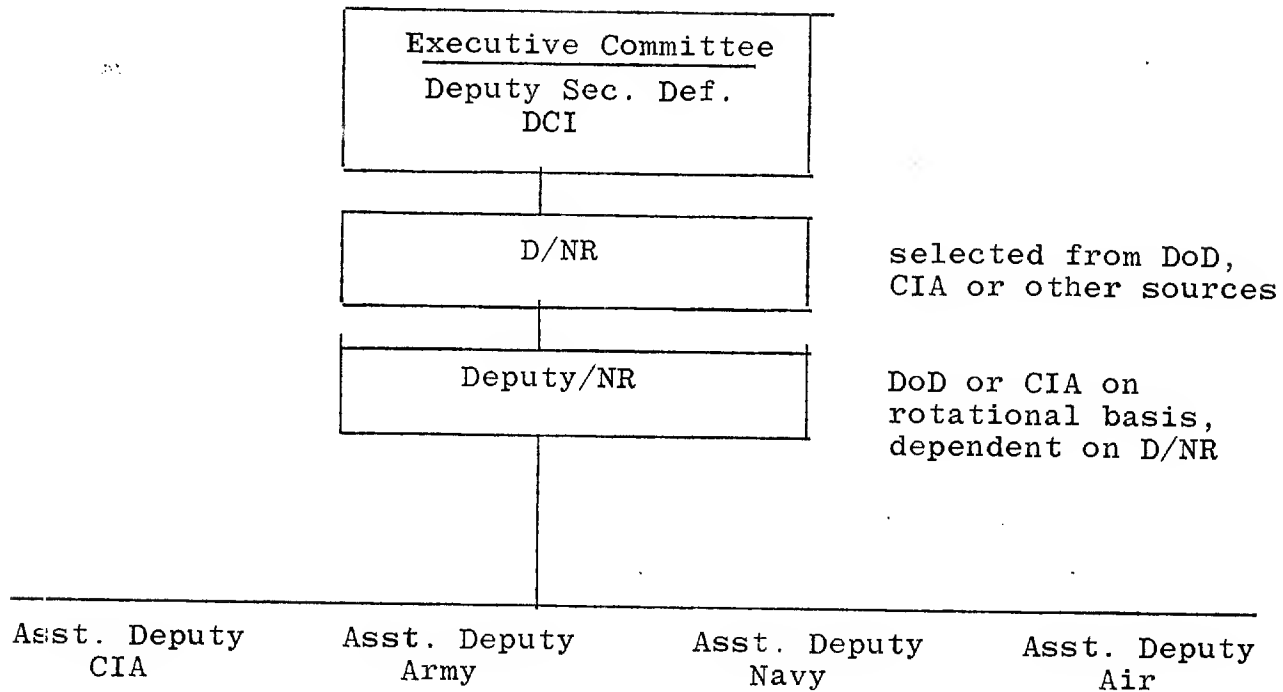
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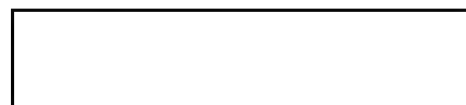
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ATTACHMENT

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The Assistant Deputies would constitute the action and information channels to their respective parent services.



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